



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

REENTRY AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS: More than 2.6 million people have criminal records on file with the Georgia Crime Information Center. Returning to the community after time in prison is a difficult transition, for anyone going through the reentry process; and
- WHEREAS: At least 95 percent of state prisoners will be released to their communities at some point. Even when one has completed a prison term, negative stigmas associated with having a criminal record often present obstacles in finding employment and other areas; and
- WHEREAS: Returning citizens depend on the support of their communities to have a successful return to their homes, avoid recidivism and find meaningful employment in the workforce. Historically, about 40 percent of offenders return to state prison within three years of their release, so it is imperative that the men and women reentering society receive the support and encouragement they need to make positive contributions and good decisions, thereby avoiding recidivism; and
- WHEREAS: Reentry, when fully implemented, empowers returning citizens to refrain from crime and incentivizes law-abiding behavior. Under the Georgia Prisoner Reentry Initiative, coordinators work with many inmates in the months leading up to their release to assess their needs while creating a reentry plan to be used by Community Supervision Officers; and
- WHEREAS: Support for reentry gives returning citizens a voice and presents them with new opportunities here in Georgia. Stigmas associated with one's criminal record are being replaced with compassion and kindness from the community, and hope for a brighter future; and
- WHEREAS: Georgia has made great strides in becoming a national leader in criminal justice reform, highlighted in recent years as one of the eight states with reduced recidivism rates. I encourage Georgians to join in supporting and encouraging our returning citizens; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim July 2016 as REENTRY AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 23rd day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen.



Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley
CHIEF OF STAFF